

WORKSHOP ON THE PROMOTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL
EQUITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

LONG-TERM TERRITORIAL PLANNING
AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

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CEPA strategy guidance note on
Long-term territorial planning and spatial development

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The [United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](https://publicadministration.un.org) has developed a set of principles of effective governance for sustainable development. The essential purpose of these voluntary principles is to provide interested countries with practical, expert guidance on a broad range of governance challenges associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. CEPA has identified 62 commonly used strategies to assist with the operationalization of these principles. This guidance note addresses long-term territorial planning and spatial development, which is associated with the principle of intergenerational equity and can contribute to strengthening the inclusiveness of institutions. It is part of a series of such notes prepared by renowned experts under the overall direction of the CEPA Secretariat in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

<https://publicadministration.un.org>

FROM TOP-DOWN 'SHAPING THE FUTURE' TO BOTTOM-UP 'SHARING THE FUTURE'

5 Key Takeaways

1. Development of places affects existing generations differently.
2. Development of places also affects future generations.
3. Planned development of places is key for climate and biodiversity preservation and restoration.
4. Integrated development of places is essential for coherent policy-making.
5. The place dimension of policies and actions is best focused in some kind of participatory spatial policy, plan and/or design.



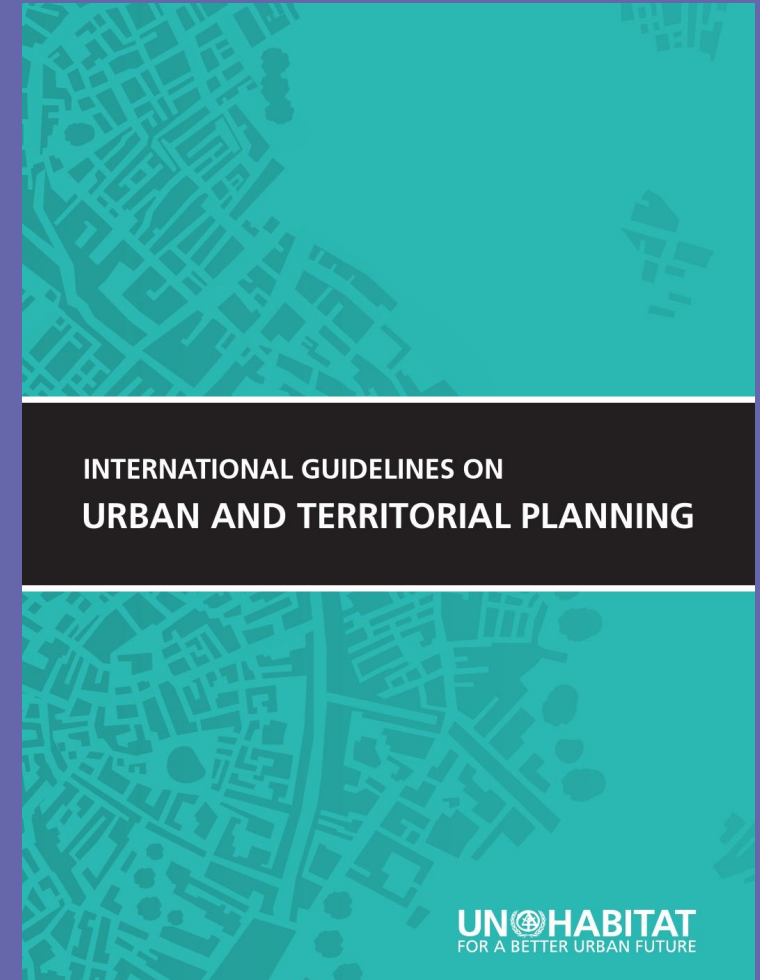
FROM MASTER-PLANNING TO COLLABORATIVE PLANNING



The limitations and rigidity of master-planning methods are gradually replaced by the new paradigm of 'strategic spatial planning'. This collaborative planning approach aims at combining long-term spatial visioning with short-term spatial interventions through stakeholder and community-involvement, including intergenerational considerations.

Understanding Planning for Places

- ❑ **'Territories'** and **'spaces'** are terms referring to the wide diversity of land-based places on earth, whether inhabited or not, or fall within one or more administrative boundaries;
- ❑ In this note, **'territorial/spatial/place-based' planning** and even **'placemaking'** are used as synonyms and go beyond the outdated term of 'physical/land-use planning' and the more place-specific terms of 'urban planning' or 'regional planning'.
- ❑ **Sustainable spatial planning** can be understood as the process of place-based policymaking by the responsible territorial authorities *to achieve better places with more compact urban development, that are better connected by public transport and micro-mobility, and that are climate resilient and socially inclusive.*



Understanding Planning for Places

- ❑ **'Spatial/urban/regional development'** is what happens with or without deliberate planning.
- ❑ Absence of territorial coherence causes governance problems such dysfunctional urban spaces, broken ecosystems, spatial inequalities and higher exposure and vulnerability to climate and pandemic crises and other system shocks.
- ❑ Long-term territorial planning and spatial development are most effective when a territorial lens is applied to all relevant policies.
- ❑ Long-term territorial planning and spatial development strongly relates and can contribute to intergenerational equity by:
 - An **age-based approach** in all territorial planning processes and its outputs (policies, plans and designs).
 - A **resource-based approach** in planning that ensures equal access to resources for current and future generations.

Understanding Public Planning of Places

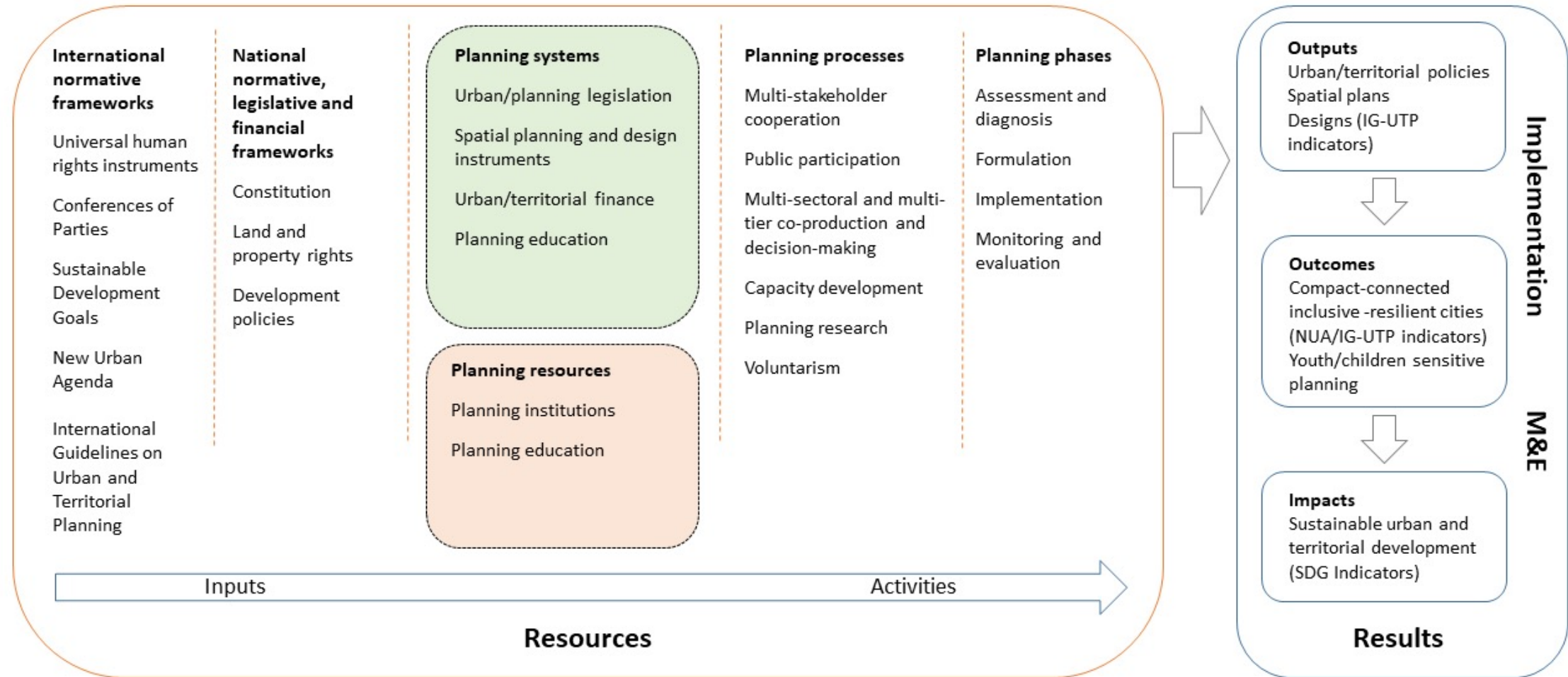
1. Planning – the intellectual capacity to anticipate and even shape the future – is a uniquely human feature that was the main enabler of (urban) civilization.
2. Planning was 'reinvented' by public authorities to accommodate and mitigate the industrial revolution and related economic growth paradigm, including the colonization of territories and communities.
3. Planning gradually expanded into wholesale national/regional **planning systems**, embedded in national/regional legislative frameworks (regulatory planning).
4. Planning systems most often did not (easily) adapt to societal and ecological changes;
5. Outdated or dysfunctional planning systems were/are often 'by-passed' or overruled.
6. Contrary to 'climate change response', there is no coordinated scientific-political action to establish global policy on planning system reform towards metric-based 'sustainability planning'.

HOWEVER...WE DO HAVE **SDG 11, THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AND THE INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING** AS GLOBAL POLICY MARKERS FOR PLACE-BASED 'SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING'

Re-inventing Public Planning of Places

1. **Getting the planning right at the street and neighbourhood levels** (placemaking for and with the people)
2. **Applying national territorial policy frameworks** (including National Urban Policies)
3. **Strengthening regional sustainability planning** (in particular for city-regions and metropolises)
4. **Embracing multi-level territorial governance** (re-inventing 'subsidiarity')
5. **Engaging children and youth in planning their futures** (age- & resource-based planning)
6. **Thinking and planning beyond borders** (municipal, regional and national)
7. **Reducing the use of remaining 'open space'** (from smart growth to de-growth)
8. **Embracing nature-based solutions** (climate/biodiversity-responsive planning)
9. **Reforming outdated planning systems** (by establishing new 'sustainability planning systems')
10. **Investing in planning education and capacity** (institutional and at grassroots level)

Reforming our outdated Planning Systems



Planning actors: National Government, subnational authorities and civil society groups representing, among others, youth, older persons, community organizations, planning professionals and the private sector

Planning scales: International, transboundary, national, regional, metropolitan-city, municipal, neighbourhood and/or street

Decade of Action Planning

- ❑ Inspiring practices
- ❑ Peer-to-peer learning
- ❑ Engaging in a global debate for sustainability planning:
 - New Urban Agenda - Quito+5
 - 11th World Urban Forum
 - 58th World Planning Congress
 - 27th Climate Conference
 - ...

